

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 9th April 2017

Counties Contests

On Easter Monday, 17th April, we have two short counties contests: the usual 2 metres contest for two hours from 2.00 pm local time, plus the first-ever 70 cms counties contest for the preceding hour, from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm local time. Both contests have mixed mode SSB/FM and FM-only sections. The 2 metres counties contest on Easter Monday has been a popular event for many years, so we hope there will be plenty of activity on the band again this year. Many 2 metre rigs also have 70 cms, so please join us on UHF in the hour before the 2 metres event.

Summits on the Air

Phil ON4TA, a regular visitor to these shores, is currently in Ireland and taking in some SOTA activations during his travels. In his first week here, he operated from a number of summits in the Wicklow hills and the Comeraghs. On Sunday last Phil, accompanied by Joe EI7GY, was on Tonlague County Wicklow, where Phil operated on 2 metres, 70 cms and 23 cms. His 23 cms QSOs included three summit-to-summit contacts with operators in Wales, the first recorded summit to summit contacts on 23 cms across the Irish Sea. Phil now moves to Sligo, with plans to activate summits in the North-West of the country.

Avondhu Radio Club

The Avondhu Radio Club will air EI1IMD from Brow Head, West Cork for the 2017 International Marconi Day.

The EI7WHG/L Echo link node 395897 located at Watergrasshill, operated by Avondhu Radio Club has had a software upgrade [Echoproducer Ver. 3.8], which is running with Echo Link.

To connect EI7WHG/L to Ireland conference on Echo Link. use the DTMF command 101. There is much improved audio quality and additional features, like audio date / time, CW ID for EI7WHG/L, weather reports and automatic ARRL news broadcast at 10am / 6pm on Sundays.

Many thanks to Jim GI0BHJ for setting up the new software.

Cork Radio Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Cork Radio Club will be held on Wednesday next April 12th in Carrigtwohill Community Centre at 8.30pm. All members are asked to attend this meeting and new members and visitors are also very welcome.

The club will review the past years activities, which included field days special event stations, lectures and educational trips. Further information from Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574 or email davebeag /at/ gmail.com

DX News

Alexander RX0QM is now stationed at the Russian Bellingshausen Base on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands. He is using the callsign RI1ANB and will be QRV when time permits. The South Shetlands count as AN-010 for the Islands on the Air Award. QSLs go via EW4DX.

The world traveller Vlad UA4WHX has now appeared on the HF bands from Sri Lanka with the callsign 4S7VBG. QSLs can be obtained by following the instructions on his home QRZ.COM page.

Three members of the Russian Robinson Club plan to activate Arakamchenen Island in the Bering Sea. The callsign will be R71RRC. Dates of operation will be between 7th to 17th April. The IOTA reference is AS-071. The last time this island group was activated was in 1990/91.

Helmut DJ7CF is QRV as 6Y5/DJ7CF from Greenwood, Jamaica until 28th April. Look for him on SSB, CW and PSK31. QSLs go via his home call.

Lough Erne Rally Sunday 14th May 2017

The 36th Lough Erne Radio Rally will take place at the SHARE Centre, near Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh BT92 0EQ on Sunday 14th May. Doors open at 11.30am. For more information and to book tables contact Mark EI4HDB QTHR. www.learc.eu

Using Morse on your Smart Phone

Google have introduced an App which allows one to use a Morse keyboard instead of the Qwerty keyboard, to tap out the individual letters of a text message and or email. To find out more - Google it.

Items for inclusion in next week's Radio News can be submitted via e-mail to "newsteam /at/ irts / dot / ie" for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Urgent news items for the radio news may be telephoned to the radio news editor, Aidan, EI7JC on 085 7100511.

Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Thursday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

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